

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A computing system aiding in the operation diagnostic and maintenance functions of a remote computing devices, the diagnostic system comprising:

a plurality of remote computing devices coupled to a network, wherein each said remote computing device runs under a respective first boot image;

a process initiator on a server, coupled to a user interface, that allows for the selection of a particular remote computing device from said plurality of remote computing devices;

a download director that controls a download of a maintenance boot image to the particular remote computing device via the network;

a reboot director connected to initiate a reboot process of the particular remote computing device;

a daemon on the server, monitoring the particular remote computing device for the completion of a given task;

wherein said process initiator, said download director, and said reboot director are connected such that, upon initiation by said process initiator, said download director downloads a temporary boot image to the particular remote computing device, [[and]] said reboot director causes the particular remote computing device to reboot using said temporary boot image, and said daemon monitors the remote computing device for completion of a given task associated with the temporary boot image, then upon completion of the [[a]] given task, said download director downloads said respective first boot image to the particular remote computing device and said reboot director causes the particular remote computing device to reboot using said first boot image.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, the process initiator further selecting a specific operational mode of the particular remote computing device.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the selection of a specific operational mode results in a download of a particular temporary boot image from among a plurality of boot images.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein each of the plurality of boot images is operable to perform a particular maintenance or diagnostic task on the particular remote computing device.
5. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein the plurality of boot images reside on a remote storage media.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1 [[6]] wherein notification of the completion of said task is a signal from the particular remote computing device.
8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the process initiator receives an input through said user interface that specifies the particular remote computing system.
9. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the process initiator is an independent diagnostic program, the independent diagnostic monitor initiating the selection of the particular remote computing device based upon specified criteria, the criteria of the remote system being monitored by the diagnostic program.
10. (Currently amended) A method for diagnosing and maintaining remote computing devices, the remote computing device coupled to a network and running under a first boot image, the method comprising:
 - selecting, at a server, a particular remote computing device, wherein a particular remote computing device is selected from a plurality of remote computing devices;
 - downloading a maintenance boot image to the particular remote computing device via the network;
 - initiating a first reboot process of the particular remote computing device with the maintenance boot image;
 - performing a diagnostic or maintenance function by running the particular remote computing device under the maintenance boot image;
 - monitoring, at the server, the particular remote computing device for the occurrence of a predetermined event; and

initiating a second reboot process of the particular remote computing device using the first boot image upon the occurrence of [[a]] the predetermined event associated with the maintenance boot image.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising downloading a copy of said first boot image prior to said second reboot process.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said step of selecting additionally selects a particular new boot image from among a plurality of boot images.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein each of the plurality of boot images is operable to perform a particular maintenance or diagnostic task on the particular remote computing device.
14. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the plurality of boot images reside on a remote storage media.
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10 [[15]] wherein the predetermined event is a signal from the particular remote computing device indicating that function of the operational mode associated with the maintenance boot image has been completed.
17. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of selecting is performed by a user through a user interface, and the user specifies the particular remote computing device.
18. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of selecting is performed by a software program.
19. (Currently amended) A computer program product in a computer usable medium for diagnosing and maintaining remote computing devices, the remote computing device coupled to a network and running under a first boot image, the method comprising:
instructions for selecting, at a server, a particular remote computing device from a plurality of remote computing devices;

instructions for downloading a maintenance boot image to the particular remote computing device via the network;

instructions for initiating a first reboot process of the particular remote computing device with the maintenance boot image;

instructions for performing a diagnostic or maintenance function by running the particular remote computing device under the maintenance boot image;

instructions for monitoring, at the server, the particular remote computing device for the occurrence of a predetermined event; and

instructions for initiating a second reboot process of the particular remote computing device using the first boot image upon the occurrence of [[a]] the predetermined event associated with the maintenance boot image.

20. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 19, the instructions for selecting comprising:

instructions for downloading a copy of said first boot image prior to said second reboot process.

21. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 19, wherein the instructions for selecting designate a particular new boot image from among a plurality of boot images.

22. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein each of the plurality of boot images is operable to perform a particular maintenance or diagnostic task on the particular Remote computing device.

23. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the plurality of boot images reside on a remote storage media.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 19 [[24]] wherein the predetermined event is a signal from the particular remote computing device indicating that a

function of the operational mode associated with the maintenance boot image has been completed.

26. (Original) The computer program product of claim 19 wherein the instructions for selecting allow for the interaction of a user, and the user specifies the particular remote computing device.
27. (Original) The computer program product of claim 19 wherein the instructions for selecting are responsive to signals from a software program.
28. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the daemon monitors the particular remote computing device for completion of the given task by polling the maintenance boot image for update information.
29. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the monitoring step further comprises:
polling the maintenance boot image for update information.
30. (New) The computer program product of claim 19, wherein the instructions for monitoring the particular remote computing device for the occurrence of a predetermined event comprises instructions for polling the maintenance boot image for update information.